



Ag in Action

September 2007

Director
Donald Butler

Editor
Ed Hermes

From the Director's Desk

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Today I was happy to submit the Arizona Department of Agriculture's annual report to the Governor, Legislature, and other interested parties. I think they will be pleased to learn about all of the great work that our Department and all of its employees are doing, I know I am. The annual report is a statutorily mandated report that details the many services and provided by our department and the ways we have worked to better regulate and support Arizona agriculture.

To find this report from the homepage of our website or by going directly to: <http://www.azda.gov/Main/Annual%20Report%202007.pdf>

I am very proud of how diligent all of our employees have been in awarding grant funds, administering advisory committees, training and protecting agricultural workers, and working to protect one of the safest and most affordable food supplies in the world.

We ensure that Arizona citrus, fruits and vegetables meet top quality standards, that meat, poultry, dairy, and egg products processed and consumed in Arizona are safe, that animal feed meets safety and label requirements, and that fruits, vegetables, and plants brought into this state are not carrying harmful pests or diseases.

These efforts have been enhanced by the Arizona State Legislature's decision to invest in improving our ability to secure the ports of entry and to conduct quality and safety testing at the State Agriculture Laboratory. Thank you for your hard work in pursuing our mission to regulate and support Arizona agriculture while protecting consumers and natural resources.

Technology to Improve Arizona Fruit/Vegetable Inspections

USDA announces pilot program to allow ADA to utilize new inspection

(Phoenix, AZ) – Fresh produce inspections and calculations in Phoenix will utilize state of the art software and laptop computers rather than the traditional pen and paper thanks to a pilot program recently announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA announced today that Arizona would be the first state ever to implement the electronic inspection process for fresh fruit and vegetables, known as “FEIRS”.

“In a time when Arizonan’s are paying more attention to food safety and quality, this technology is a big step forward in providing timely and accurate inspections for fruits and vegetables” said Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano who had urged USDA to allow Arizona to use FEIRS.

Until now this process, known as the Fresh Electronic Inspection Reporting/Resource System (FEIRS), has only been utilized in Federal Terminal Markets. The Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) is the first non-federal agency to be allowed to utilize the FEIRS software. This technology will allow ADA inspections to be more efficient, accurate, concise, and user-friendly, which will be beneficial to growers, shippers, and ultimately consumers.

“This technology will save our inspectors approximately fifteen minutes per inspection” said Donald Butler, Director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture, “and for a department that conducted 39,000 fruit and vegetable inspections last year, that is very significant.”

Although the pilot program is currently only for Phoenix, Arizona, the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) hopes to expand it to Nogales by spring of 2008 for the start of grape season when the Department inspects thousands of shipments of grapes coming from Mexico. The ADA plans on having this pilot program up and running in Phoenix by October.

Al Lopez Leaves C,F & V Advisory Council



After serving for 18 years, Al Lopez attended his last Citrus, Fruit, and Vegetable (CF&V) Advisory Council meeting earlier this week. For the past 18 years Mr. Lopez has represented the citrus industry on the council and before retiring he was a citrus producer for many years with the Bodine Co. He was one on the original CF&V Advisory Council members when it was created in 1989 and the Arizona Department of Agriculture appreciates all that Al has done to protect and promote Arizona Agriculture.

Monica Pastor Named Maricopa County Extension Director



The University of Arizona recently announced that Monica Pastor would take over as County Extension Director for University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Maricopa County.

Monica is currently the Associate Agent for Agricultural Literacy and works on important programs such as the Summer Agriculture Institute which has taught hundreds of Arizona teachers about agriculture and how to teach their students about agriculture. Before working for UA County Extension, she worked for the Maricopa County Farm Bureau and has long history of advocating for and educating about Arizona agriculture.

Pastor's appointment as County Extension Director will take effect on September 24.

CPR Classes Teach Lifesaving Skills

By Deborah Atkinson, Divisional Assistant ESD

CPR classes were held at the Department's 1688 W. Adams building on August 2nd and 3rd gave the Department's employees lifesaving skills. The class consisted of approximately 3 hours of instruction on how to perform CPR and how to properly use the AED (Automatic External Defibrillator). I would like to thank all of the employees that participated in this training as it could some day save a life!

8/2

Stacie Archuleta
Deborah Atkinson
Karol Brill
Anna Wells
Brett Cameron
Tiffany Ground
John Hunt
Jennifer Weber
Lisa James
Anita Landy
Malorie Lewis
Beth Mania
Andrea Martin
Jack Peterson

8/3

Jessica Gomez
Christina Castro
Theresa Crisostomo
Robin Curtis
Carol Dubois
George Glas
Linda Gonzales
Deborah Hamilton
Lena Jackson
Belen Navarro
Larry Stanford
Dominique Ramirez
Delia Rodriguez
Suzette Taylor



The Automatic External Defibrillator is located on the 2nd floor of the 1688 building near the conference room

USDA Announces Grant to study “Arizona Grown”



The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced a \$49,275 grant to the Arizona Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with Arizona State University, to study state branding programs for Arizona. This study will also make recommendations on how Arizona might resurrect an “Arizona Grown” state branding program that would promote Arizona agricultural products. Research, which will primarily be carried out by the Arizona State University Morrison School of Agribusiness, is planned to begin by early October.

Fun Opportunities to Experience Agriculture

---“FRIDAY ON THE FARM, PART FREE!”---Who doesn't love ice cream, furry friends, hay rides and the wet nuzzle of a 1000-pound bovine all under a beautiful desert sky? On Friday, October 12, 2007, Superstition Farm eagerly welcomes back the public for a FREE day of fun for the whole family and celebrates the start of its fall 2007 public farm tours season. Superstition Farm at 3442 S. Hawes Rd. in Mesa will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition to touring the dairy and enjoying hayrides, the day will include a petting zoo sponsored by FFA (Future Farmers of America), photo opportunities with Daisy the Cow, and the chance to meander through a hay bale maze.

Kids can express their artistic flare at the Joann's craft corner, and they can expend some of that natural energy by participating in a soccer kick from Arizona Milk Producers. Adults will enjoy the Tractor Garden and checking out a classic mini-milk tanker. A live DJ, door prizes, free milk and ice cream will further roll out the welcome mat to the community. For more information visit www.SuperstitionFarm.com or call (602) 432-5600.



2007

**UA Maricopa Agricultural Center
USDA Arid Land Agricultural Research Center**

MAC FIELD DAY

OCTOBER 3, 2007

“Water: Securing Our Future”



Environmental

Social

Economic

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Registration begins: 8:00 am in Cardon Bldg.

8:00 am-12:00 pm
Poster Displays
Agricultural Equipment Displays

9:00 am-10:30 am MAC Field Tours (Bus)	12:30 pm-1:00 pm Welcome/ Introductions Announcements
10:30 am-12:00 pm Symposium	12:00 pm-1:00 pm Barbecue Lunch



New Hires and Retires

New Hire – Malorie Lewis, Livestock and Crop Conservation Grant Program Specialist, ACT

Malorie Lewis was born in Tucson, Arizona, and after spending several years living in the West Valley, her family moved to Chandler, where she spent most of her life growing up. Her interest in the agriculture industry came through her father, an Agricultural Education instructor and FFA Advisor at Chandler High School. Malorie has been extensively involved in FFA, both during high school and afterwards. She spent two years working with Arizona FFA, which gave her the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the agricultural industry across Arizona. Malorie recently graduated from Arizona State University, Polytechnic Campus, where she majored in Agribusiness Finance. She is excited to have joined the Arizona Department of Agriculture and looks forward to continuing to be a part of the agricultural industry.



New Hire – Carlos Ramirez, Rules Analyst; Office of the Director



Carlos Ramirez embodies the “Arizona grown” moniker by being a native to the state. He graduated from Arizona State University in 2001 with dual degrees in Political Science and Anthropology, relying on both during his five-year tenure at the Arizona Game and Fish Department. After handling birds of prey, learning how to shoot an over-under, and rewriting the book on the agency, Carlos decided it was time to use his skills at another agency that could use them. And not to lose his accrued leave time or vested retirement status, the Department of Agriculture seemed like a natural fit.

Outside of the office, Carlos enjoys photography and clay target shooting, but would also be open to anyone who has any vegetable gardening tips.

So if you have any, pop into the office next to the atrium’s west stairwell.

New Hire – Cristi Watson, Customer Service Representative; Animal Services Division



I am a single mother of three teenage sons. Originally from southern California, we lived in Las Vegas for eight years before moving to Phoenix four years ago to be closer to family. For the past year I worked at DES, Family Assistance at the McKinley office. Prior to my DES employment, the majority of my work experience was been in bookkeeping. In my spare time I like to experience live music, ride my bike, hike and garden (when the weather is cooler), re-finish furniture, cook and most of all spend time relaxing with family and friends. I am very happy to be working at the Department of Agriculture and want to thank everyone for welcoming me.

H. A. T. S. OFF To YOU!

H.A.T.S. Off to the following employees who've exemplified hard work, great attitude and teamwork!

H.A.T.S. OFF to You! June's winners are:

Leader of the Quarter – Gary Christian, ESD

Gary will receive a complimentary gift card to Abuela's restaurant.

Employee of the Month – Walt Strain, PSD

Walt will receive a complimentary gift card to Chili's restaurant.

H.A.T.S. Winners:

Connie Beeman, PSD

Bill Lamb, PSD

Jon Penderghest, PSD

Werner Schroedl, PSD

Carol Chancey, ESD

Alyssa Lusk, ESD

Cindy Richins, PSD

Tristan Schurman, PSD

Lena Jackson, ESD

Nancy MacDonald, ASD

Elida Ruiz-Chin, ESD

Mary Lou Wolslagel, PSD



Leader of the Quarter: Gary Christian

Would you like to see one of your co-workers or leaders recognized for their Hard Work, Attitude and Teamwork with a Smile?

It's easy! Just complete the attached H.A.T.S. nomination form and send:

- one copy to the Employee Recognition Committee
- one copy to the nominee
- one copy to the nominee's supervisor.

Letter to the Editor: Mexican Wolf Program is Own Worst Enemy

Submitted By Laura Schneberger, Gila Livestock Growers Association

There is another issue that threatens to make raising livestock more difficult in rural Arizona and New Mexico, but unlike drought, disease, and constantly increasing production costs, this is a problem that some are choosing to bring on ourselves. This man made problem is the continued reintroduction and proliferation of Mexican Wolves into New Mexico and Arizona.

At this time most of the wolves occupying New Mexico and Arizona are not vaccinated for rabies. To make matters worse, affecting elk and cattle in the wolf recovery area are some new and nasty pathogens that cause cystic infections and death in elk and late term abortions in cattle. This disease is carried in canine feces and was not known to be in the area prior to wolf recovery and can be contracted by people. Whether it can be directly attributable to wolf reintroduction or will have a long term affect on the prey base or humans, remains to be seen but should not be difficult to ascertain.

These are serious health and safety concerns for Arizona citizens. Now is not the time for adamant opposition of any kind of wolf control. At this time, leadership in state game agencies should be instructing employees to work on the rabies issue to ensure the viability of the program and a reasonably wild population of non-habituated, vector free wolves. They should also make every effort to ensure a healthy prey base for wild born and non problem wolves as well as hunting interests.

As of last January there were a minimum of 59 confirmed wolves in AZ and NM according to wolf program personnel. It is well known that due to financial constraints, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have done the bare minimum to document trap and collar existing wolves. However, it does not stop program personnel from playing games with the people in the region as to what is a wolf depredation and how many have actually occurred. One livestock depredation incident is not necessarily one kill, often it is a cow calf pair and at least two cases totaled two cow calf pairs killed in a 24 hour period as one incident. Fish and Wildlife Services should be working to provide protections to rural inhabitants rather than individual problem wolves.

To engender unwarranted sympathy for a habituated, dangerous pair of wolves that have killed numerous livestock and caused harm to families in the area, federal agencies claimed their pups would be orphaned and are now ceasing any form of wolf control without a review of procedure.

With the imminent boundary removal and rule change in the works, proper management of wolves that prey on privately owned livestock, must include reasonable management and lethal control. Lethal control is absolutely necessary to pursue this program, enhance wolf recovery and ensure wolves that behave normally are in the wilds of the state. Politically motivated management decisions are never in the best interest of wildlife, particularly those predators that can have a tremendous detrimental affect on people and in light of the current situations state governments should take a hard look at where this program is really threatened and where it is simply threatening.

If you would like to submit a letter to the editor please send it to hermes@azda.gov

August/September Birthdays

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
August 26 Janet Kindsfater Michael Wieczorek	27	28	29	30	31 Andrea Martin	Sept. 1
2	3	4 Juan Ramirez Samuel Torres	5	6 Scott Ramsey	7	8
9	10	11	12 Kany Mamood	13 Kathleen Willey	14 Thomas Kimmell	15
16 Anna Pfender	17 Jolene Quillen	18 Karen Jackson	19	20 Tony Ayuyu	21 Bridgett Kidd Janet Robins Charles Whiting	22
23	24 George Glas	25 Robin Curtis	26 Nancy MacDonald	27 Jerry Fimbres Netzahualcoytl Ibarra	28 Gary Christian Cindy Pellechia	29
30						